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DE RUEHMU #0314/01 0831803  
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O 241803Z MAR 09  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3928  
INFO RUEHMT/AMCONSUL MONTREAL IMMEDIATE  
RHBPCOM/USNS COMFORT IMMEDIATE  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 0399  
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA IMMEDIATE  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEAHLA/HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEPINS/HQ BICE INTEL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEAWJF/HQ INS WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RHBPCOM/MEDTRE FAC COMFORT IMMEDIATE  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHC/DEPT OF LABOR WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEABND/DEA HQS WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RHBVJPX/COMPHIBRON SIX IMMEDIATE  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUMIAAA/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

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SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR WHA/CEN, WHA/PPC, INR/IAA  
DEPT ALSO FOR G/TIP, IO/RHS, DRL AND PRM  
DEPT FOR DS/CR/OCI  
DEPT ALSO FOR CA/FPP  
DEPT PASS TO USOAS AND USAID  
MONTREAL FOR USICAO  
PANAMA FOR REGIONAL ICE REP  
DOJ FOR CBP AND ICE  
TREASURY FOR SENICH

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [CVIS](#) [ASEC](#) [PGOV](#) [SMIG](#) [PREL](#) [NU](#)  
SUBJECT: VISIT NICARAGUA! DECREE TEXT AND REVISED COUNTRY  
GROUPINGS

REF: MANAGUA 301 AND PREVIOUS

11. (U) Late on March 18, 2009, the Government of Nicaragua (GON) released the official text of Decree 07-2009 that changed Nicaragua's visa policy. Our unofficial English translation appears below. The decree's fundamental change to Nicaragua's visa regime is that citizens from countries in "Class B" may now apply for a visa upon reaching a Nicaraguan Port of Entry (POE), rather than having to do so from abroad prior to travel. While the decree text did not include a list of affected countries, a list published on the Foreign Ministry (MINREX) website indicated that country groupings also have been changed. Only India newly appears on the "Class-B" list. Four countries -- Ecuador, Iran, Libya and the Palestinian Authority -- have moved from "Class-C" directly to "Class-A," effectively granting them visa-waiver. As previously reported, Iran and Libya were changed by decree in December 2007 (REFTEL). Five others -- Haiti, India, Jordan, Pakistan and Thailand -- have been moved from "Class-C" to "Class-A" for non-tourist passport holders only. Visas for tourist passport-holders from these countries (except India, which moved to "Class-B") would still require prior approval from Central Immigration before issuance.

12. (SBU) COMMENT. When we inquired with MINREX for a list of countries affected by the new decree, we were directed to the list on the MINREX site. We presume this is authoritative,

but did discover several errors and inconsistencies in the MINREX list. Most significantly, Palestine, Libya and Iran all newly appear under "Class-A," but are still listed the "Class-C" grouping. The MINREX list does not anywhere show the Czech Republic, Iceland, Romania or Saint Kitts, which are all "Class-A" countries under the original CA-4 agreement. Also, Serbia and Montenegro still appear together as one country under "Class-B." Finally, neither South Ossetia nor Abkhazia -- to which Nicaragua has granted official recognition -- appear on the visa category lists. However, there is a new entry under "Class-C" for "Entities or Authorities Recognized as States." Western Sahara still appears separately. We will continue to seek clarification on these discrepancies and information about how the new visa will be implemented. END COMMENT.

Decree Text

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¶3. (U) BEGIN TEXT OF DECREE. (Unofficial Embassy Translation).

Decree No. 07-2009

The president of the Republic of Nicaragua,

CONSIDERING,

¶I. That it is in the interest of the Government of

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Reconciliation and National Unity to promote investment and to attract foreign capital to Nicaragua with the purpose of improving the national economy.

II. That the Government has the obligation to prevent situations that harm economic growth and tax collection.

III. That the tourism industry has been improving and generating greater income for the country, making it necessary to promote both tourism and investment.

THEREFORE:

In use of the authorities that the Political Constitution confers upon him,

HAS DICTATED,

The following:

DECREE

VISA PROCEDURES TO ENTER THE COUNTRY

Article 1. In accordance with Covenant of Creation of the Central American Uniform Visa for Free Movement of Foreigners, approved and ratified by the National Assembly on December 12, 2006, and published in Gaceta No. 13 on January 18, 2007, that those citizens who wish to travel to Nicaragua, classified in category B (visa without consultation), will be granted the corresponding visa, without detriment in complying with the requirements of law, any time that they are in national territory, maritime, air and land border check points, and report to the Office of Migration and Foreigners window, where they will pay a fee for the visa and tourism card.

Article 2. The Agreements of Visa-Free ("Visa Libre") Status signed by the Republic of Nicaragua with other States remain in force. As well as the ones subscribed with the United Nations Organizations (UN) and with the Organization of American States (OAS).

Article 3. The Ministries of Government and Foreign Affairs, and the Nicaraguan Tourism Institute, through their

corresponding branches, are ordered to guarantee the compliance of these dispositions.

Article 4. The present decree will be enforced as soon as it is published in La Gaceta, Diario Oficial.

Given in the City of Catarina, on the thirteenth day of the month of March of the year two-thousand-nine. DANIEL ORTEGA SAAVEDRA. President of the Republic of Nicaragua. Ana Isabel Morales Mazun, Minister of Government.

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END TEXT OF DECREE.

14. (U) Following is the list of visa categories for Nicaragua subsequent to the March 13 Presidential Decree. This list appears on the Foreign Ministry website. Since the law from 8-31-2005 was passed that specified the three lists, the following changes have been made by the Sandinista government. We have previously reported on the change for Iran and Libya.

BEGIN REVISED (2009) LIST OF VISA CLASSIFICATIONS (Source: Ministry of Foreign Relations)

Classification "A" Category (82 entities)

Andorra  
Antigua and Barbados  
Argentina  
Australia  
Austria  
Bahamas  
Bahrain  
Barbados  
Belgium  
Belize  
Brazil  
Brunei-Darussalam  
Bulgaria  
Canada  
Chile  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Denmark  
Ecuador  
Estonia  
Finland  
France (For those originating from the other French Territories they will be issued exempt status visa (A)  
Germany  
Greece  
Haiti (Only Dip/Official/Service Passports)  
Holy See (Vatican)  
Hong Kong (Only bearers of ordinary British passport originating from Hong Kong that read "Nationality British." Those which read "overseas" will get treatment for visa (c))  
Hungary  
India (Only Dip/Official/Service Passports ONLY; tourist passports TO B list)  
Iran (SINCE DEC 2007)  
Ireland  
Israel  
Italy  
Japan  
Jordan (Only Dip/Official/Service Passports)  
Kuwait  
Latvia  
Libya (SINCE DEC 2007)

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Liechtenstein

Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Macedonia  
Madagascar  
Malaysia  
Malta  
Marshall Islands  
Mexico  
Monaco  
New Zealand  
Norway  
Pakistan (Only Dip/Official/Service Passports)  
Palestinian Authority  
Panama  
Paraguay  
Poland  
Portugal  
Qatar  
Saint Lucia  
Saint Tome and Principe  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
Salomon Islands  
San Marino  
Singapore  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
South Africa  
South Korea  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Taiwan  
Thailand (Only Dip/Official/Service Passports)  
The Netherlands including Aruba and the Dutch Antilles  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Turkey  
Tuvalu  
United Kingdom Those originating in the other British territories except Hong Kong as noted will be given exempt status (A).  
United States of America (Guam Included)  
Uruguay  
Vanuatu  
Venezuela  
International Organization: (OAS, EU, UN)

Classification "B" Category (73 entities)

EMBASSY NOTE: It appears the previous application process and fee USD 25 still apply to this grouping, except for the fact that an application can now be made at a Nicaraguan port of entry.

Azerbaijan  
Belarus  
Benin

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Bhutan  
Bolivia  
Burkina Faso  
Burma  
Burundi  
Cambodia  
Cameroon  
Cape Verde  
Central African Republic  
Chad  
Colombia  
Comoros Islands  
Costa Rica  
Cote d'Ivoire  
Djibouti  
Dominica  
Dominica Republic  
Egypt

Equatorial Guinea  
Fiji  
Gabon  
Gambia  
Georgia  
Granada  
Guinea  
Guinea Bissau  
Guyana  
India (tourist Passports; Dip/Official/Service passports now  
"Class-A")  
Jamaica  
Kazakhstan  
Kenya  
Kiribati  
Krgyzstan  
Lesotho  
Malawi  
Maldives  
Mauritania  
Mauritius  
Micronesia  
Moldova  
Morocco  
Namibia  
Nauru  
Niger  
Palau  
Papua New Guinea  
Peru  
Philippines  
Russia  
Rwanda  
Samoa  
Saudi Arabia  
Senegal  
Serbia and Montenegro  
Seychelles  
Suriname

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Swaziland  
Tajikistan  
Tanzania  
Thailand  
Togo  
Tonga  
Tunisia  
Turkmenistan  
UAE  
Uganda  
Ukraine  
Uzbekistan  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

Classification "C" Category (45 Entities)

NOTE: Application requirements, process and fee (USD 25.00)  
remain unchanged for this grouping. However, several  
countries appear to have been removed from this list.  
Issuance Policy: Visas must be authorized by Central  
Immigration in Managua before the visas are issued abroad;  
however, the government can send an airline a letter  
authorizing boarding without a stamped visas in certain cases  
(which is often abused and has been reported on at length by  
the Embassy) END NOTE.

Afghanistan  
Albania  
Algeria  
Angola  
Armenia  
Bangladesh  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Botswana

China (PRC) (except certain citizens from Hong Kong)  
Congo  
Cuba  
Democratic Republic of Congo  
East Timor  
Eritrea  
Ethiopia  
Ghana  
Haiti (ONLY tourist Passport holders ) Dip/Official/Service  
Passports are now on the A list)  
Indonesia  
Iraq  
Jordan (ONLY tourist Passport holders ) Dip/Official/Service  
Passports are now on the A list)  
Laos  
Lebanon  
Liberia  
Mali  
Mongolia  
Mozambique  
Nepal  
Nigeria

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North Korea  
Oman  
Other "Entities or Authorities Recognized as States"  
Pakistan (ONLY tourist Passport holders )  
Dip/Official/Service Passports are now on the A list)  
Sierra Leone  
Somalia  
Sri Lanka  
Sudan  
Syria  
Vietnam  
Western Sahara  
Yemen  
NOTE: the following still appear, probably erroneously, on  
the MINREX list.  
India  
Iran  
Libya  
Palestinian Authority

END REVISED (2009) LIST OF VISA CLASSIFICATIONS.  
SANDERS